The last 23

VVILL AND TESTAMENT OF Sir Iohn Presbyter,

Who dyed of a new *Diſeaſe* called *The particular Charge of the* ARMY.

With divers Admonitions and Legacies left to his deare Children of the *Presbyterian* Commons that have deſerted the Houſe: Likewiſe to Legions of *periur'd Prieſts*. reſiding in *London*, *Weſtminſter*, or elſe where.

With his Life, Death, Buriall, and Epitaph.

The third Edition; Corrected and amended by the Author to prevent other falſe Copies.

Printed in the yeare of Jubilee, 1647.

The laſt Will, &c.

Know all men by theſe preſents, that I

John Presbyter Knight, by Countrey *Scotch-man*, of the Tribe of *Rabſhekah*, of the Linage of *Judas*; (being of perfect memory, onely a litle troubled with melancholy, and a diſeaſe called, *The particular Charge of the Army*) doe ordaine this my laſt Will and Teſtament to ſtand in full force and vertue.

Imprimis, I give and bequeath my ſoule into the hands of him that gave it; and whereas I have alwayes (in my life time) been uſed, and taught all others to plunder and rob both God and *Caſar* of their dues; yet at my death I deteſt all ſuch horrid Actions, Equivocations, and mentall Reſervations, and will not rob the Devill of his: Therefore in plaine Engliſh, *Devill take thy due.*

For my body, I bequeath to the earth; provided firſt, That it bee firſt decently wrapped in ſix ſheets of the *Directory*, and then reverently coffined up in the ſacred *Ordinance for Tithes*, and ſo with all ſolemnity carried from the *Temple* to *Weſtminſter* by the *C L aſſes*, Doctor *Burges*, Doctor *Gouge*, Maſter *Edwards*, and *Byfeild* being cloſe Mourners, and going before the Corpes, and the wicked Elders following after, weeping, howling, and knaſhing of their teeth, as if they were already in the fire, which ſuch ſtinkiug Trees were made for, upon one of which

Judas my great Granfire hanged himſelfe, You may read more of them in the Hiſtory of *Suſanna*, with a ſlow motion, and in the midſt of the ſtreets, that my body may be ſeene by all, and let your ſorrow ſo much abound, that you may take up that Lamentation of old, *Wiſdome crying out in the ſtreets, but none regardeth her* —— my will is, That my learned Countriman, Doctour *Cybbalds* teach at my Funerall in a deplorable tone of language (according to his ſpeciall gift) my will being that he preach upon that Text in the 89. Pſal. ver. 44. *The dayes of my youth haſt thou ſhortened and covered me with diſhonour.*

Next I deſire that Mr. *Calamy* and Mr. *Caſe* may be ſent up to deſire a conference with both Houſes, to procure an Ordinance, that there may be a day of Humiliation appointed and ſet apart to deplore my ſad loſſe, and that a Meſſage be prepared, and ſent with all ſpeed into *Scotland*, to give them timely notice thereof, that they may humble themſelves with you, and that whereas wee have continued a Monthly Faſt for the diſtreſſed *Proteſtants in Ireland*, and wee our ſelves having revoked the *Proteſtant Religion*, and inſtituted the *Presbyterian*, (and now finding our owne diſtreſſes to be above or equall with theirs) we conclude that our Prayers have not beene availeable for them, and may now change the day, and faſt and pray as long or longer for our ſelves. And likewiſe, that they may be pleaſed to put it to the Vote, whether my corps may not be interred neare his Excellency their late Lord Generall, and Mr. *John Pym*, and ſo hereafter all Parliament men diſceaſing, that wee our ſelves may as well now, as hereafter take up all the reſting places of the Saints, and ſo leave no roome for either the King or his evill Counſell or Popiſh Biſhops, they having formerly engroſſed that place only for themſelves, that an Ordinance may be ſpeedily drawne up to this effect.

Thirdly, I will and bequeath vnto Doctour *Burges* to have the diſpoſing of all fat Benefices whatſoever; provi-

ded

ded that the said Dr. *Burges* hold and freely enjoy as many of the said Benefices as he himselfe pleaseth, and the rest to be by him disposed of to such persons as he shall thinke qualified and indued with gifts befitting so great a *Cause* as the present *Reformation* shall require: to which end, for the better incouragement of him the said Dr. therein, I do freely give and bequeath unto the said Dr. *Burges* all the scaffolds, and loose stones in or about, or belonging to the Church of *Pauls*, to pull downe, take, carry away, and dispose of as he shall thinke fitting.

Fourthly, I give and bequeath unto my Reverend Son Dr. *Gouge* the full sum of 500 l. for these religious uses following, *viz.* 20 pounds to find his Parish Bell-ropes, and in case his said Parish shall not have any use thereof, that he or any of the rest of the venerable *Assembly* shall have full power and authority to use them at their owne discretions: That one hundred and 50 pounds shall be by the said * Dr. *Gouge* disbursed in sea-coale whilst they are cheap, and by him sellered up (as lately he did, most of his Parish can justifie the same) and by him againe sould ont to the poore of his Parish, or any other poore Christians at 10. d. the Bushell cleare gaines. And I ordaine that he imploy the remaining sum in like manner, or if he thinkes it fitting to put it to use at 10. in the hundred, and not under, and the gaines thereof arising to be distributed equally to Mr. *Wil. Prin*, and Dr. *Bastwick*, that they may be the better encouraged to *Query* against the *Army*, to raile against *Independents*, to rout out *Monarchy*, and to prove *Presbytery jure Divino*, provided that the *principall* remaine intire to Dr. *Gouge* himselfe, without any other fraud or deceit.

* Like to like quoth the Devill to the Collier.

Fifthly, I give and bequeath to my deare Child Mr. *Edwards*, 500. Acres of Bishops Lands, with all the timber growing thereon, to be by him converted to Gibbets to hang up the *Independents*; and in case the said *Independents* shall resist the holy Synod, as it is probable they will; That then it shall be lawfull for any of the *Assembly* being al-

ready furnished with hempe (if not enough in my former Legacy, the Common people of England questionlesse will supply their needs) to hang themselves, and to fulfill the old Proverbe, give them halter enough and theile hang themselves.

Sixthly, I give and bequeath all my plundered Books, and Libraries lately tane from the Bishops to Mr *Calamy*, Mr *Sedgwick*, and Mr. *Case*, it being likely the Case may suddenly be altered, and my sonne *Calamy* feele *Calamity*, for I feare destruction is nigh, and my son *Sedgwick* will shortly bleat (like one of *Ieroboams* Calves) to his Country-men in *Essex*, in one only single poore Benefice.

Seventhly, I give and bequeath all my *Charity* to the *Aldermen* of the City, and by them to be disposed of to the *Parliament*, as they shall have need thereof.

Eightly, All my wisdome and learning to the *Common Councell*, that they may preserve the City as I and my Children have preserved the *Church*, and brought it to the great light and glory that now you see it is.

Ninthly I give and bequeath to all broaken *Aldermen*, defunct *Committees*, and *accused Members* of the House of Commons, my new *Creed*; and by them to be disposed of to their Creditors, and all others as they shall see cause, that they may renew their faith, and againe become credible men, by which meanes the publique faith may againe revive, and the City looke up: and whereas my Predecessor knowne by the name of Doctors Commons of famous memory did decease about sixe yeares since, having first made a will which was made publique in print, and for as much as the said Doctors Commons is againe revived to my great and unspeakeable terrour, I doe hereby bequeath unto my said Predecessor all jurisdiction, privileges, profits, and emoluments whatsoever so unjustly usurped and detained by me, and the rest of my precious Brats.

Tenthly, All my zeale for the Cause I give and bequeath to the dissenting Souldiers that have deserted the Army, that they

they may ſtand up mightily in the gap, and ſtop the plaguy devouring Army of Sir *Thomas Fairfax*.

Eleventhly, I give and bequeath all my new invented *Oathes*, and *Covenants*, all my *Schiſmaticall Sermons*, all my *Periuries*, *Forgeries*, *Plots*, *Treacheries*, *Rebellions*, *Equivocations*, and *mentall reſervations*, to my deare children the *Scots*, provided that they ſhall make uſe of them in their owne Countrey, and not elſe where.

Twelfthly I give and bequeath unto Dr. **Cyballs* 10. l. of lawfull money of England, in conſideration of my Funerall Sermon, beſides two *Canonicall Coats*, which he may turne, as he ſees fitting; and I deſire him to make his prayer ſhorter then the ordinary uſe hath been, for I my ſelfe muſt confeſſe the blaſphemies treaſons, hereſies, incongruities, tautologies, abſurdities of my children in their meaſure of Prayer, from time to time (obſerved by the people) hath beene a great cauſe of my untimely diſeaſe: And alſo I deſire that his *Sermon* may be printed, and publiſhed, and that Wal-ey'd *Bartles* at *Auſtins*-gate, and *Bellamy* at the Old Exchange have the Printing thereof; and that an Ordinance may bee deſired, that none dare to reprint the ſame.

* A notorious turne-coat.

Laſtly, I do intruſt all that out of a conſcientious duty to me (ſhall ſuddenly after my diſeaſe) leave and abandon the Houſe of Commons, (Provided they exceed not the number of threeſcore) to be my Executors, that they ſee this my laſt Wil and Teſtament performed, without any fraud according to the true ſenſe and meaning thereof, and the ſeverall legacies to be paid to the perſons aforeſaid within five moneths after my death. And this my Will to remaine in full force, revoking all former Wills, Bonds, Bills, Gifts, whatſoever.

Witneſſe my hand and Seale,

Adoniram Byfield, Scribe.
Sealed and delivered,
July, 1647.

John Presbyter.
Simon Synod.
Cornelius Burges.

Poſtſcript.

Postscript.

REjoyce O heavens, sing aloud O earth, clap thy hands for joy, O *England, post nubula soles*, thou shall now have a time of quietnesse, of peace, of content, for *Presbyter John* is dead, and will never vex thee more, nor imprison thy free Denizens, nor eate up thy fat things, nor devour thy good things, nor eate the bread out of thy childrens mouthes: Therefore farewell persecution for *conscience*; farewell *Ordinance for Tythes*; farewell *Ecclesiasticall Supremacy*; farewell *Pontificiall Revenue*; farewell *Dissembly of Divines*, dissembled at *Westminster*, you shall consult together no more; farewell Sir *Simon Synod*, and his sonne *Presbyter Jack*.

Gens antiqua ruit, multos dominata per Annos,
And therefore O England,
Interpone suis interdum gaudia curis

His EPITAPH.

HEre *lies* Jack Presbyter, *void of all pity,*
Who ruin'd the Countrey, and fooled the City:
He *turned* preaching *to* prating, *and telling of lies,*
Caus'd jarres *and* dissentions *in all* Families.
He *invented* new Oathes, Rebellion *to raise,*
Deceiving the Commons, *whilst on them he preyes.*
He made a New Creed, *despised the* Old,
King, State, *and* Religion *by him bought and sold.*
He saw eye was confuted, and yet could not tell
The Parliament *how* Christ *went into* Hell.
Resolved therein, he never could be,
Therefore in great haste, he's gone thither to see.

FINIS.